

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Address September 21, 2018

### Building Safer Communities

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Hello, this is your Congressman Michael Burgess.

Over the last year and a half, Congress has prioritized making communities safer for the American people.

For example, Congress has passed legislation to improve school safety and reduce human trafficking.

As I have mentioned in recent weekly addresses, I am working to secure American borders. Over the last year, I have made several trips to the southern border to see firsthand the effects of our immigration crisis. This summer, I also visited El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala to learn more about the factors resulting in outflows of migrants, many of whom choose the dangerous journey across Central America and Mexico over our border and into our state. These countries are dealing with poverty, gang violence, drug trafficking, and corruption that contribute to domestic instability and the desire for a better life. But, individuals attempting to enter the United States cannot do so without appropriate legal status. It is critically important for the leaders of those countries to step forward and take care of their citizens.

Additionally, Republicans in Congress have made ending the opioid crisis a top priority. This spring, I had the privilege of leading the House's work on H.R. 6, the most comprehensive legislation to combat opioid abuse that Congress has ever passed. Despite the progress we've made, we must continue to identify gaps in the system. Earlier this year, I traveled to JFK Airport to tour an international mail facility where law enforcement officers intercept illicit drugs being sent through the United States Postal Service. Congress is taking steps to end this abuse and ensure that dangerous drugs cannot enter our country through the United States mail.

At the same time, we're investing in our Armed Forces to ensure that our men and women in uniform have the resources they need to protect Americans at home and abroad.

As you can see, each of these steps is helping to create a safer America. As we seek to build safer, more successful communities, Congress is continuing to deliver on our promises to the Americans in North Texas and around the country.

As always, I appreciate your comments and your questions on this issue or any other issue. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless you Texas.